

# **APPENDIX A**

## **The Victims of Crime Act**

## **VICTIM'S OF CRIME ACT (VOCA)**

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The following version of VOCA is as reported online through Westlaw in the U.S. Code Annotated (USCA). In a few instances, the USCA version did not reflect changes to the statute which have occurred pursuant to the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 (PL 104-132) and the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, 1997 (PL 104-208), or reflects technical errors found in the original Act or statute. In an effort to provide a "correct" version of the statute, the following sections reflect changes made by the Office of the General Counsel, Office of Justice Programs, to the USCA version:

- 1402(d)(5) The Appropriations Act added the entire paragraph found at 1402(d)(5).
- 1402(e): The Appropriations Act amended to change the period during which grant may be spent from 2 years succeeding the years of award to "3" years succeeding the year of grant award.

## ACTIMS OF CRIME ACT

42 U.S.C. 10601

### Sec. 1402. Crime Victims Fund

(a) Establishment. There is created in the Treasury a separate account to be known as the Crime Victims Fund (hereinafter in this chapter referred to as the "Fund").

(b) Fines deposited in Fund; penalties; forfeited appearance bonds. Except as limited by subsection (c) of this section, there shall be deposited in the Fund--

(1) all fines that are collected from persons convicted of offenses against the United States except--

(A) fines available for use by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to--  
(i) section 11(d) of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1540(d)); and  
(ii) section 6(d) of the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3375(d)); and

(B) fines to be paid into--

(i) the railroad unemployment insurance account pursuant to the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (45 U.S.C. 351 et seq.);  
(ii) the Postal Service Fund pursuant to sections 2601(a)(2) and 2003 of Title 39 and for the purposes set forth in section 404(a)(8) of Title 39;  
(iii) the navigable waters revolving fund pursuant to section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321); and  
(iv) county public school funds pursuant to section 3613 of Title 18;

(2) penalty assessments collected under section 3013 of Title 18;

(3) the proceeds of forfeited appearance bonds, bail bonds, and collateral collected under section 3146 of Title 18; and

(4) any money ordered to be paid into the Fund under section 3671(c)(2) of Title 18.

(c) Retention of sums in Fund; availability for expenditure without fiscal year limitation.

Sums deposited in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be available for expenditure under this chapter for grants under this chapter without fiscal year limitation.

(d) Availability for judicial branch administrative costs; grant program percentages. The Fund shall be available as follows:

which the grant is made at any time during the 3 succeeding fiscal years, at the end of which period, any remaining unobligated sums in excess of \$500,000 shall be returned to the Treasury. Any remaining unobligated sums in an amount less than \$500,000 shall be returned to the Fund.

(f) "Offenses against the United States" as excluding.

As used in this section, the term "offenses against the United States" does not include--

- (1) a criminal violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (10 U.S.C. 801 et seq.);
- (2) an offense against the laws of the District of Columbia; and
- (3) an offense triable by an Indian tribal court or Court of Indian Offenses.

(g) Grants for Indian tribes; child abuse cases

(1) The Attorney General, acting through the Director, shall use 15 percent of the funds available under subsection (d)(2) of this section to make grants for the purpose of assisting Native American Indian tribes in developing, establishing, and operating programs designed to improve--

(A) the handling of child abuse cases, particularly cases of child sexual abuse, in a manner which limits additional trauma to the child victim; and

(B) the investigation and prosecution of cases of child abuse, particularly child sexual abuse.

(2) As used in this subsection, the term "tribe" has the meaning given that term in section 450b(b) of Title 25.

42 U.S.C. 10602      **Sec. 1403. Crime victim compensation**

(a) Authority of Director; grants

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Director shall make an annual grant from the Fund to an eligible crime victim compensation program of 40 percent of the amounts awarded during the preceding fiscal year, other than amounts awarded for property damage. Except as provided in paragraph (3), a grant under this section shall be used by such program only for awards of

(5) such program provides compensation to victims of Federal crimes occurring within the State on the same basis that such program provides compensation to victims of State crimes;

(6) such program provides compensation to residents of the State who are victims of crimes occurring outside the State if--

(A) the crimes would be compensable crimes had they occurred inside that State; and

(B) the places the crimes occurred in are outside the U.S. (if compensable crime is terrorism as defined in § 2331 of title 18 of the U.S. Code), or are States not having eligible crime victim compensation programs;

(7) such program does not, except pursuant to rules issued by the program to prevent unjust enrichment of the offender, deny compensation to any victim because of that victim's familial relationship to the offender, or because of the sharing of a residence by the victim and the offender;

(8) such program does not provide compensation to any person who has been convicted of an offense under Federal law with respect to any time period during which the person is delinquent in paying a fine, other monetary penalty, or restitution imposed for the offense;<sup>1</sup> and

(9) such program provides such other information and assurances related to the purposes of this section as the Director may reasonably require.

(c) Exclusion from income for purposes of means tests

Notwithstanding any other law, for the purpose of any maximum allowed income eligibility requirement in any Federal, State, or local government program

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<sup>1</sup>Section 234(a)(2) of Pub. L. 104-132-- "Application of Amendment," provided that: "Section 1403(b)(8) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, as added by paragraph (1) of this section [subsec. (b)(8) of this section], shall not be applied to deny victims compensation to any person until the date on which the Attorney General, in consultation with the Director of the Administrative Office the United States Courts, issues a written determination that a cost-effective, readily available criminal debt payment tracking system operated by the agency responsible for the collection of criminal debt has established cost-effective, readily available communications links with entities that administer Federal victim compensation programs that are sufficient to ensure that victim compensation is not denied to any person except as authorized by law."

(1) Subject to the availability of money in the Fund, the Director shall make an annual grant from any portion of the Fund made available by section 10601(d)(3)(B) of this title for the purpose of grants under this subsection, or for the purpose of grants under section 10602 of this title but not used for that purpose, to the chief executive of each State for the financial support of eligible crime victim assistance programs.

(2) Such chief executive shall--

(A) certify that priority shall be given to eligible crime victim assistance programs providing assistance to victims of sexual assault, spousal abuse, or child abuse;

(B) certify that funds shall be made available for grants to programs which serve previously underserved populations of victims of violent crime. The Director, after consultation with State and local officials and representatives from private organizations, shall issue guidelines to implement this section that provide flexibility to the States in determining the populations of victims of violent crimes that may be underserved in their respective States;

(C) certify that funds awarded to eligible crime victim assistance programs will not be used to supplant State and local funds otherwise available for crime victim assistance; and

(D) provide such other information and assurances related to the purposes of this section as the Director may reasonably require.

(3) The amounts of grants under paragraph (1) shall be--

(A) the base amount to each State; and

(B) that portion of the then remaining available money to each State that results from a distribution among the States on the basis of each State's population in relation to the population of all States.

(4) If the amount available for grants under paragraph (1) is insufficient to provide the base amount to each State, the funds available shall be distributed equally among the States.

(5) As used in this subsection, the term "base amount" means--

(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), \$500,000; and

(A) for demonstration projects and training and technical assistance services to eligible crime victim assistance programs; and

(B) for the financial support of services to victims of Federal crime by eligible crime victim assistance programs.

(2) Of the amount available for grants under this subsection--

(A) not more than 50 percent shall be used for grants under paragraph (1)(A); and

(B) not less than 50 percent shall be used for grants under paragraph (1)(B).

(3) The Director shall--

(A) be responsible for monitoring compliance with guidelines for fair treatment of crime victims and witnesses issued under section 6 of the Victim and Witness Protection Act of 1982 (Public Law 97-291);

(B) consult with the heads of Federal law enforcement agencies that have responsibilities affecting victims of Federal crimes;

(C) coordinate victim services provided by the Federal Government with victim services offered by other public agencies and nonprofit organizations; and

(D) perform such other functions related to the purposes of this title as the Director deems appropriate.

(4) The Director may reimburse other instrumentalities of the Federal Government and contract for the performance of functions authorized under this subsection.

(d) Definitions. As used in this section--

(1) the term "State" includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States; and

(2) the term "services to victims of crime" includes--

(A) crises intervention services;

(B) providing, in an emergency, transportation to court, short-term child care

(a) Victims of acts of terrorism outside the United States

The Director may make supplemental grants as provided in section 10603(a) of this title to States to provide compensation and assistance to the residents of such States who, while outside of the territorial boundaries of the United States, are victims of a terrorist act or mass violence and are not persons eligible for compensation under title VIII of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986.

(b) Victims of terrorism within the United States

The Director may make supplemental grants as provided in section 10601(d)(4)(B) of this title to States for eligible crime victim compensation and assistance programs to provide emergency relief, including crisis response efforts, assistance, training, and technical assistance, for the benefit of victims of terrorist acts or mass violence occurring within the United States and may provide funding to United States Attorney's Offices for use in coordination with State victim compensation and assistance efforts in providing emergency relief.

42 U.S.C. 10604

**Sec. 1407. Administrative provisions**

(a) Authority of Director to establish rules and regulations.

The Director may establish such rules, regulations, guidelines, and procedures as are necessary to carry out any function of the Director under this chapter.

(b) Recordkeeping.

Each recipient of sums under this chapter shall keep such records as the Director shall prescribe, including records that fully disclose the amount and disposition by such recipient of such sums, the total cost of the undertaking for which such sums are used, and that portion of the cost of the undertaking supplied by other sources, and such other records as will facilitate an effective audit.

(c) Access of Director to books and records for purpose of audit and examination.

The Director shall have access, for purpose of audit and examination, to any books, documents, papers, and records of the recipient of sums under this chapter that, in the opinion of the Director, may be related to the expenditure of funds received under this chapter.

(d) Revealing research or statistical information; prohibition; immunity from legal proceedings; permission; admission of information as evidence.

Except as otherwise provided by Federal law, no officer or employee of the Federal Government, and no recipient of sums under this chapter, shall use or reveal any



(a) Office established within Department of Justice.  
There is established within the Department of Justice an Office for Victims of Crime (hereinafter in this chapter referred to as the "Office").

(b) Appointment of Director; authority; restrictions.  
The Office shall be headed by a Director (referred to in this chapter as the "Director"), who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Director shall report to the Attorney General through the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs and shall have final authority for all grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts awarded by the Office. The Director shall not engage in any employment other than that of serving as the Director, nor shall the Director hold any office in, or act in any capacity for, any organization, agency, or institution with which the Office makes any contract or other agreement under this chapter.

(c) Duties of Director. The Director shall have the following duties:

- (1) Administering funds made available by section 10601 of this title.
- (2) Providing funds to eligible States pursuant to sections 10602 and 10603 of this title.
- (3) Establishing programs in accordance with section 10603(c) of this title on terms and conditions determined by the Director to be consistent with that subsection.
- (4) Cooperating with and providing technical assistance to States, units of local government, and other public and private organizations or international agencies involved in activities related to crime victims.
- (5) Such other functions as the Attorney General may delegate.

42 U.S.C. 10606

#### Sec. 502. Victims' rights

(a) Best efforts to accord rights.

Officers and employees of the Department of Justice and other departments and agencies of the United States engaged in the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime shall make their best efforts to see that victims of crime are accorded the rights described in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Rights of crime victims.

A crime victim has the following rights:

(c) Description of services

(1) A responsible official shall--

(A) inform a victim of the place where the victim may receive emergency medical and social services;

(B) inform a victim of any restitution or other relief to which the victim may be entitled under this or any other law and manner in which such relief may be obtained;

(C) inform a victim of public and private programs that are available to provide counseling, treatment, and other support to the victim; and

(D) assist a victim in contacting the persons who are responsible for providing the services and relief described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C).

(2) A responsible official shall arrange for a victim to receive reasonable protection from a suspected offender and persons acting in concert with or at the behest of the suspected offender.

(3) During the investigation and prosecution of a crime, a responsible official shall provide a victim the earliest possible notice of--

(A) the status of the investigation of the crime, to the extent it is appropriate to inform the victim and to the extent that it will not interfere with the investigation;

(B) the arrest of a suspected offender;

(C) the filing of charges against a suspected offender;

(D) the scheduling of each court proceeding that the witness is either required to attend or, under section 10606(b)(4) of this title, is entitled to attend;

(E) the release or detention status of an offender or suspected offender;

(F) the acceptance of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere or the rendering of a verdict after trial; and

(G) the sentence imposed on an offender, including the date on which the offender will be eligible for parole.

For the purposes of this section--

(1) the term "responsible official" means a person designated pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to perform the functions of a responsible official under that section; and

(2) the term "victim" means a person that has suffered direct physical, emotional, or pecuniary harm as a result of the commission of a crime, including--

(A) in the case of a victim that is an institutional entity, an authorized representative of the entity; and

(B) in the case of a victim who is under 18 years of age, incompetent, incapacitated, or deceased, one of the following (in order of preference):

- (i) a spouse;
- (ii) a legal guardian;
- (iii) a parent;
- (iv) a child;
- (v) a sibling;
- (vi) another family member; or
- (vii) another person designated by the court.

42 U.S.C. 10608      Sec. 235. Closed circuit televised court proceedings for victims of crime

(a) In general

Notwithstanding any provision of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure to the contrary, in order to permit victims of crime to watch criminal trial proceedings in cases where the venue of the trial is changed--

(1) out of the State in which the case was initially brought; and

(2) more than 350 miles from the location in which those proceedings originally would have taken place;

the trial court shall order closed circuit televising of the proceedings to that location, for viewing by such persons the court determines have a compelling interest in doing so and are otherwise unable to do so by reason of the inconvenience and expense caused by the change of venue.

(b) Limited access

The Judicial Conference of the United States, pursuant to its rule making authority under section 331 of Title 28, may promulgate and issue rules, or amend existing rules, to effectuate the policy addressed by this section. Upon the implementation of such rules, this section shall cease to be effective.

(h) Effective date.

This section shall only apply to cases filed after January 1, 1995.